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## Editorial

At the initial press conference in Chennai during the 2015 World Championships, cheating was the hot topic. During that press conference, Ron Klinger stood to relate that, a couple of years previously, he had reported suspicious activity from a pair he had played against to WBF officials. Since he had heard nothing in return, Klinger asked Gianarrigo Rona what had happened to his (written) report. Rona stated that he had no knowledge of the report and promised to investigate and get back to Klinger with his findings.

That incident reminded me of another, similar one, from the World Championships in Shanghai in 2007. Alan Sontag reported to the tournament directing staff that a pair he had played against was cheating and even provided details of their methods. Nothing was done by either the TD or WBF officials and the pair in question is still competing today.

I began to wonder how many other similar incidents had occurred over the years. Accordingly, I sent out an email to about a hundred top players worldwide, asking if they had ever had occasion to report to a bridge organisation that they suspected a pair of cheating and had received no response of positive action. (Some of the recipients forwarded the email to others.) There was good news and bad news: the good news was that there were only two positive replies, from Sabine Auken and Tom Hanlon; the bad news is that those players' reports and the outcomes were depressingly similar to Klinger's and Sontag's: no discernible action.

The WBF continues to disclaim responsibility for catching cheats, stating repeatedly that the players and NBOs are responsible. Yet, at the same time, officials from the WBF and other organisations excoriate Boye Brogeland and his methods. We ask, "where would we be without Brogeland?" The answer is obvious: the cheats would still be playing, perhaps under investigation, but perhaps not. There would at least be the appearance of total inactivity. We laud the ACBL Bridge Integrity Task Force's Chair, Howard Weinstein, for stating publicly, in the Task Force's initial report, published in the Denver NABC Daily Bulletin: "The bridge community owes a debt of thanks to Boye Brogeland and the other players who put themselves on the line this summer pushing this issue to the forefront." Indeed.

The International Olympic Committee took ownership of the drug problem by creating WADA and not leaving the catching of cheats to its member nations (we see how successful that would have been with the recent WADA revelations about organised Russian government-sanctioned and -sponsored cheating). The WBF **must** take the initiative.

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## 14<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP

Milton Keynes, England  
12-14 November, 2015  
**Brian Senior, Nottingham**

The 14<sup>th</sup> ECC was held at the magnificent Horwood House Hotel in Little Horwood, Milton Keynes, roughly midway between London and Birmingham.

Twelve teams contested the event, nominally comprising club champion representatives of the top ten nations from the most recent European Open Teams Championship, the holders and the host. Since Italy were the holders and England the host, and both had qualified (Italy belatedly), they were allotted two teams each. Israel, Monaco, Poland and Germany, who had finished first, second, fourth and sixth, respectively, in that European Championship had withdrawn in the wake of the cheating scandals and were replaced by teams from the Netherlands, Turkey, Romania and Italy.

The teams played a complete round robin of 10-board matches, the top four teams qualifying for semifinals and final. Fifth through eighth played a 'B' semifinal and final and ninth through twelfth did likewise in the 'C' group. The first team in each group chose between third and fourth for its semifinal opponent.

### Round 1 – Allegra (ITA) v Angelini (ITA)

#### Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ K J 10 5 2 ♦ 2 ♣ A J 9 8 6</p> <p>♠ A K 9 8 ♥ A 3 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ Q 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 10 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ J 10 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 7 6 4 3 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 7 4</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Giubilo</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Cima</i>	<i>Di Franco</i>
2♣	2♥	Pass	3♥
Double	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♦	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bianchedi led the jack of hearts and Giubilo called for the queen. When that held he had no further worries. He drew trumps, gave up a club and had 12 tricks for a swift and painless plus 920.

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Sementa</i>
2NT	Pass	4♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
5♥	Double	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. One minor, slam try

Sementa led the six of hearts, third and lowest, and Bilde, of course, called for dummy's ace. He cashed three rounds of trumps, ending in hand. Tokay discarded the two of spades followed by the nine of clubs, while Sementa threw the spade three followed by the four of clubs. Both defenders had, I believe, shown an even number of spades. Bilde led the ten of spades next and Sementa played low – surely Tokay's first discard would not have been to void himself in a suit, so this looks like a clear error, but how could it hurt, as nobody would run the bare ten – would they?

Yes they would! Bilde thought for quite some time, but then convinced himself that this was his only real chance, as a defender would have had to make a crazy error to discard from a spade holding which would now ruff out. Bilde played low from dummy and, when the ten held the trick, crossed to the queen of diamonds to take two heart discards on the ace and king of spades. After that, he gave up a club and had 12 tricks for a magnificent flat board.

### Round 4 – Allfrey (ENG) v Soulet (FRA)

The champions of France and England met in Round 4, with the English team lying next to bottom in the rankings and in urgent need of a strong result. The French champions, meanwhile, were in third place and fresh from a narrow victory over the leaders, BC't Onstein.

#### Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

<p>♠ Q 10 7 6 ♥ K 5 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ K 5 3 2</p> <p>♠ A J 5 4 ♥ J 10 8 ♦ 10 8 5 4 2 ♣ J</p>	<p>♠ K 9 8 3 2 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ J 6 ♣ 10 8 7</p> <p>♠ — ♥ 9 7 4 3 2 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ A Q 9 6 4</p>
--	--

West	North	East	South
<i>Robson</i>	<i>Soulet</i>	<i>Allfrey</i>	<i>Oursel</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Allfrey led the three of spades to Robson's ace and, trusting declarer to have something in spades, Robson found the killing switch to the jack of hearts to pick up three tricks in that suit with the king of spades to come for down one and minus 50. Well done to the defence and difficult to crime the offence. However...

West	North	East	South
<i>Mauberquez</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Ste. Marie</i>	<i>Bell</i>
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	1♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	3NT <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♣ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. The Kaplan Inversion: a forcing notrump (0-4 spades)
2. (i) Natural or (ii) Weak notrump type with 5 hearts
3. Invitational-plus in clubs
4. No thank you
5. Offer to play
6. Four clubs would have been non-forcing

Mauberquez led a diamond. Bell won in dummy, drew trumps in three rounds and led a heart to the king. That lost to the ace but the even heart split meant that he could win the return and set up the hearts for 11 tricks and plus 400; 10 IMPs to Allfrey.

### Round 5 – EBU (ENG) v Uppsalabridgen Skalman (SWE)

At the end of Round 4, the Dutch Onstein team still headed the rankings but the multi-national EBU team was close behind, while Sweden's Uppsalabridgen Skalman were also well in contention, lying in fourth position.

#### Board 11. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

	♠ 10 5 4	
	♥ Q 9 5 3	
	♦ Q J 4 2	
	♣ A 6	
♠ J 6		♠ Q 8 7 3 2
♥ K 10		♥ J 8 7 4 2
♦ K		♦ 5 3
♣ Q J 8 7 5 4 3 2		♣ K
	♠ A K 9	
	♥ A 6	
	♦ A 10 9 8 7 6	
	♣ 10 9	

West	North	East	South
<i>Warne</i>	<i>Sælensminde</i>	<i>Bergdahl</i>	<i>Gillis</i>
—	—	—	1♦
2♣	Double	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Uppsalasbridgen's Tommy Bergdahl led his bare king in partner's suit. It was both good news and very

revealing to Sælensminde when he ducked and found that Bergdahl had to find a switch at trick two. Bergdahl selected a low heart and Sælensminde, who could not afford to lose to the king if Warne also held the guarded king of diamonds, rose with the ace and cashed the ace of diamonds. The fall of the king meant that Sælensminde also had time to lead toward the queen of hearts at the end for his eleventh trick; plus 460.

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Petersson</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Ahlesved</i>
—	—	—	2♦
3♣	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Krister Ahlesved opened an intermediate two diamonds and made a game try when Jonas Petersson was able to support the diamonds. Petersson accepted and jumped to five diamonds, where there was a bit more work to do than in three notrump.

Zia Mahmood led the jack of spades and, if anyone else had made that lead, declarer would have thought it likely that he could play the suit without loss by winning and later finessing against the queen – when Zia leads a jack, who knows which defender holds the queen? Ahlesved won with the ace and played the ace and another heart to Zia's king. Back came the two of clubs, suit preference for hearts. Ahlesved won with the ace and played the queen of hearts for a club discard. Zia ruffed with the bare king and returned a club. Ahlesved ruffed, drew trumps and led a spade to the nine. When that held the trick he had 11 tricks and his contract for plus 400, but 2 IMPs to EBU.

Perhaps declarer should have cashed the ace of diamonds before playing the ace and another heart as, had Zia held the king-doubleton of diamonds, he would have been able to ruff the heart low and return a club and then declarer would have had to judge whether to take the trump finesse or play for the drop.

#### Round 5 – BC't Onstein (NED) v Radkov (BUL)

#### Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

	♠ A K J 10 7 6	
	♥ A 6 5	
	♦ Q 10 8 4	
	♣ —	
♠ Q		♠ 8 4 2
♥ Q 10 8 7		♥ K 9
♦ A 9 3 2		♦ K 5
♣ K 10 9 3		♣ Q J 7 6 5 4
	♠ 9 5 3	
	♥ J 4 3 2	
	♦ J 7 6	
	♣ A 8 2	

West	North	East	South
Isporski	Van den Bos	Trendafilov	Van Lankveld
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Double	4♠	5♣	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The Onstein team had just been knocked off the top spot and lay third, while Bulgaria's Radkov were up to fifth, one place out of the top section for the knock-out stages. There was still half the round robin to go, but this was an important match for both teams.

Onstein picked up a couple of single-IMP gains early on, but the first significant swing went to the Bulgarians.

Trendafilov was right, in a sense, in that five clubs doubled was very cheap, though leading the king of diamonds would have beaten four spades and the king of hearts might have defeated it. East lost the obvious three tricks for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Tenev	Van Prooijen	Tiholov
Pass	1♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♣	Double <sup>2</sup>
4♣ <sup>3</sup>	4♠	Pass	Pass

1. Strong
2. Semi-positive
3. Pre-emptive

Van Prooijen led the partnership suit, selecting the queen. Tenev won with the ace, ditching one of his heart losers. He drew trumps in three rounds, Verhees pitching one club and one heart, then led the remaining low heart from his hand. Van Prooijen won with his king and forced him with a club, so Tenev ruffed and led the ten of diamonds. Again van Prooijen won his with king and played a club. Tenev ruffed and, reading the position perfectly, cashed his last trump, forcing Verhees to throw a heart to keep the ace to three diamonds. But then Tenev cashed the ace of hearts and led a diamond to the jack and ace. Verhees had to lead a diamond back to him at trick 12. Tenev put in the eight and had his game. Very nicely played for plus 420 and an 8-IMP win.

#### Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

	♠ A J 7 3	
	♥ A Q 5	
	♦ 10 7 6 4 3	
	♣ 2	
♠ 9		♠ K 8 6 5
♥ K J 10 7 6		♥ 8 4 3
♦ Q J 2		♦ K 5
♣ 9 8 6 4		♣ K Q 10 3
	♠ Q 10 4 2	
	♥ 9 2	
	♦ A 9 8	
	♣ A J 7 5	

West	North	East	South
Verhees	Tenev	Van Prooijen	Tiholov
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	Double	2♣	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Van Prooijen was willing to trust that his opponents knew what they were doing and let four spades go unmolested. Verhees led the ten of hearts against Tiholov, who put in the queen then led a club to his ace, ruffed a club and played ace of hearts then ruffed dummy's last heart. He could take two more club ruffs and two trump tricks so had ten in all for plus 420.

West	North	East	South
Isporski	Van den Bos	Trendafilov	Van Lankveld
—	—	—	1♣
1♥	Double	INT	2♠
Pass	4♠	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Trendafilov held 11 HCP and four trumps, so defeating the contract looked a good bet, and it surely wasn't going to be making overtricks. Isporski led the queen of diamonds. Van Lankveld won with his ace and returned the nine to Trendafilov's king. Declarer rose with the ace on the low club shift, led a heart to the queen, cashed the ace, then led a third diamond. Isporski won with the jack as Trendafilov threw his remaining heart, then played the king of hearts. Trendafilov discarded the queen of clubs as declarer ruffed, and now van Lankveld ruffed a club low. Trendafilov continued with his deception by following with the king of clubs. Declarer led a low diamond and Trendafilov ruffed low, over-ruffed with the ten. Now Trendafilov's attempt to look like a man with all five trumps paid off, up to a point, as van Lankveld ruffed a club with the jack when the seven would have been good enough. He then cashed the ace of spades before leading a diamond to make the queen of trumps en passant for his tenth trick; plus 590 and 5 IMPs to Onstein.

#### Round 7 – Heimdal BK (NOR) v EBU (ENG)

The overnight leaders, EBU, met Norway's Heimdal BK in Round 7, the first match of the new day. This was the big board from the match:

#### Board 7. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ Q 10 4 3	
	♥ Q 10 6	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K 10 9 3 2	
♠ J 8 6 2		♠ A K
♥ 2		♥ A J 5
♦ 10 4 3 2		♦ K Q J 8 7 6
♣ J 8 5 4		♣ A Q
	♠ 9 7 5	
	♥ K 9 8 7 4 3	
	♦ A 5	
	♣ 7 6	

West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Berg</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Johansen</i>
—	—	—	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak two in either major
2. Pass or correct

Arthur Johansen led the seven of hearts against three notrump. When Erik Berg turned up with the queen, Lindqvist had a horrible guess – who had the ace of diamonds? On the actual lie of the cards, winning the first heart and playing on diamonds makes the contract, but if the ace is with North it is necessary to duck twice to cut defensive communications. Lindqvist ducked the heart and was down two when it was Johansen who held the critical card; minus 200.

West	North	East	South
<i>Lund</i>	<i>Sælensminde</i>	<i>Hoftaniska</i>	<i>Gillis</i>
—	—	—	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Double	Pass
3♠	Pass	6♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Weak two in either major
2. Pass or correct

Tor-Erik Hoftaniska, for Heimdal, displayed a rather dramatic difference in hand evaluation. He showed great imagination, relying on his opponents to have a nine-card heart fit for their vulnerable bidding, in which case he might need only a club finesse for his contract, assuming he could ruff hearts in the dummy.

It appears that six diamonds is indeed on the club finesse, but Hoftaniska made his slam in a different fashion. Gillis led the five of spades to the ten and ace. Hoftaniska played the king of diamonds so Gillis won and exited safely with his remaining trump, but the damage had already been done. Hoftaniska cashed the king of spades, played the ace of hearts, ruffed a heart, and continued with the jack of spades to pin South's nine. Though Sælensminde did not cover the spade, Hoftaniska was sufficiently confident of the position that he discarded the queen of clubs on the spade jack and had no need to worry about the club position. That was plus 1370 and 17 IMPs to Heimdal BK, who won the match 24-17, but who, nevertheless, were docked 2 VP for late arrival, making it 10.49-7.51 in VPs.

### Round 9 – EBU (ENG) v Allegra (ITA)

On the following deal (see *top of next column*), both Norths took a look at the vulnerability and saved in five hearts over four spades. After all, how bad could it be at this vulnerability? While it's true that North has no defence, it's also true that he has no offence – take a look at those pips.

### Board 25. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 10 9 3	♥ J 10 7 6 3
♦ Q J 8 5 3	♥ 6
♣ K Q 5 3	♦ K 10 9 4
♠ A K 8 5	♣ A J 6
♥ Q 8 5 2	♠ Q 9 4 2
♦ A 7	♥ A J 7 4
♣ 9 7 2	♦ 6 2
	♣ 10 8 4

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hanlon</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
—	1♦	1♠	Double
4♠	5♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Hanlon led the jack of spades against Bilde. Declarer played low from dummy and ruffed in hand. This play was to have ramifications just two tricks later. Bilde played the queen of diamonds round to Zia's ace. Back came a low spade, as Zia thought to retain his winners for later while forcing declarer to ruff fresh air. Bilde did very well here, discarding a club, so winning the trick with dummy's nine. He led a club to the king and Hanlon's ace. Hanlon returned a heart to the seven, eight and ten, and Bilde played a low diamond, Hanlon winning with the nine. This time Hanlon returned a spade, so Bilde could ruff in hand and ruff a diamond with the ace. Zia under-ruffed on this trick, as otherwise he would have been endplayed later if he had had more trumps than dummy. As a result, however, Bilde could make only the king of hearts and the club queen, but was still out for only three down and minus 500, a small gain if four spades was making at the other table.

As we see, the other table was not playing four spades – it too was in five hearts doubled on an identical auction. Lindqvist too ruffed the jack-of-spades lead and led the queen of diamonds out of his hand. Madala also won with the ace and, rather than play spades, led the nine of clubs through. That went to the king and ace and Bocchi returned the seven of spades to the nine, king and another ruff. Lindqvist played the eight of diamonds, Bocchi winning the ten and leading his trump round to declarer's ten. Lindqvist played another low diamond, discarding a spade from dummy as Bocchi won the nine and Madala discarded a club. Now came the king of diamonds and both dummy and Madala threw low clubs. Bocchi led a club, Madala ruffing and returning a heart, and he still had to come to the queen of hearts one way or another; down five for minus 1100 and 12 IMPs to Allegra.

## Round 10 – Allfrey (ENG) v Pharmaservice (DAN)

With two rounds to play, the Danish Pharmaservice team looked to have no hope of making the top four. England's Allfrey team, however, were lying fifth and two good matches could yet see them into the major semifinals. As it turned out, there were just two worthwhile swings in the match, both in favour of Allfrey. This was one...

### Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠ 7 5 4 ♥ A ♦ A 10 ♣ A Q 9 7 6 4 3	♠ A 8 ♥ J 9 8 7 2 ♦ J 9 3 ♣ K J 10
♠ Q 10 6 3 2 ♥ K 5 ♦ Q 7 6 5 ♣ 8 5	♠ K J 9 ♥ Q 10 6 4 3 ♦ K 8 4 2 ♣ 2

West	North	East	South
Gold	Jepsen	Bell	Tofte
—	—	Pass	Pass
2♠	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Facing a weak two bid, Mike Bell had no temptation to double, though his club holding gave him hope for the defence. Gold led the five of diamonds to the ten, jack and king. Tofte, with nowhere else to go for tricks, tried the club finesse. That lost and Bell returned the nine of diamonds to dummy's ace. The ace and another club cleared that suit and Bell returned a heart to dummy's ace – this would oblige declarer to cash the club winners and squeeze his own hand, possibly a necessary defence if Tofte had better diamonds. There were eight tricks now so the contract was down one for minus 100.

West	North	East	South
Graversen	Allfrey	Clemmensen	Robson
—	—	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♣	Double	Pass
2♦	3♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Poul Clemmensen, who was facing a one-level opener, felt that his club holding and all-round values justified a penalty double. Robson could hardly have been confident of success, but he stood his ground and hoped for the best. Graversen led the two of spades, Clemmensen winning the ace and continuing with his remaining spade. Robson won with the king, Graversen following with the three, and took the club finesse. Clemmensen won the club and returned a diamond,

believing that his partner would have made a suit-preference signal at trick two. That was fatal to the defence. Robson won with the ace of diamonds and cleared the clubs and had nine tricks for plus 750 and 13 IMPs to Allfrey. A heart switch when in with the king of clubs would have established an entry to the West hand for down three and 12 IMPs the other way.

## Semifinal, Segment 2 – Angelini (ITA) v Allegra (ITA)

In the all-Italian semifinal, holders Allegra led Angelini by 36-27 at the halfway point. Minor swings early in set two saw the score move on to 37-29 after four boards. Then...

### Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ Q J 10 8 2 ♥ J 9 2 ♦ A 5 ♣ Q 9 8	♠ K 7 5 3 ♥ A K 6 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K J 7 3
♠ A 9 4 ♥ 10 ♦ K J 10 7 4 3 2 ♣ 6 4	♠ 6 ♥ Q 8 7 5 4 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ A 10 5 2

West	North	East	South
Duboin	Lauria	Bilde	Versace
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Would you open the South hand in third seat and, if so, with one heart or two hearts? Personally, at this vulnerability I would probably pass, but if I did open it would be with a weak two bid, judging that the six-four shape compensated for the weak hearts. One heart risks partner taking me seriously a little too often for my taste. *(Two hearts strikes me as madness at unfavourable vulnerability. Brian is obviously a disciple of Marty Bergen, who believed, and often stated, that “vulnerability is for children”. Let me ask – how would you feel if the auction continued pass-pass? Not pass-pass-double, yet, just pass-pass. Note that both world champions who held these cards in this match resisted that particular temptation. To be fair, in the other semifinal, another world champion, Louk Verhees, did open two hearts after two passes. Note also that three of the four Easts made a disciplined pass in second chair - van den Bos opened three diamonds, but Lindqvist, Sementa and Bilde all passed. – Ed.)*

Versace led his spade against two diamonds and Bilde won in hand, crossed to dummy with a heart and led a diamond up. When Lorenzo Lauria played low, he put up the king and returned a second round and a

successful club guess at the end meant 11 tricks for plus 150.

West	North	East	South
<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	Pass	Pass	1♥
Double	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♦	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Good raise to at least 2♥

It looks as though Tokay may have taken Sementa's two-heart cue bid and four-diamond followup as agreeing spades, given that he repeated the poor four-card suit. Madala too led the singleton spade. Sementa won with the ace and crossed to dummy with a heart, as we saw at the other table. However, when he next led a diamond, Bianchedi rose with the ace and returned a spade for his partner to ruff. Madala cashed the ace of clubs so the contract was one down for minus 200 and 8 IMPs to Allegra.

### Board 23. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ J 7 5 2	
	♥ 3 2	
	♦ J 10 5 3	
	♣ J 5 4	
♠ 9 4		♠ K Q 10 6 3
♥ Q J 8 7 4		♥ K 9
♦ 8 7		♦ A K 4 2
♣ Q 10 8 6		♣ A 7
	♠ A 8	
	♥ A 10 6 5	
	♦ Q 9 6	
	♣ K 9 3 2	

West	North	East	South
<i>Tokay</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Sementa</i>	<i>Madala</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Double	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to spades

West	North	East	South
<i>Duboin</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Versace</i>
—	—	—	1♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Bianchedi responded with a transfer to spades while Lauria passed, but the only difference this made was to vary which of their opponents declared the no trump game.

Madala led the three of clubs against Sementa. Declarer put in the ten, so the jack forced his ace. He led the

king of spades from hand, Madala winning the ace and trying a low heart, which ran round to declarer's king. Sementa led back the nine of hearts to dummy's queen then ran the nine of spades. That passed off peacefully and now Sementa came to hand with a diamond to the ace and led a club towards the queen. Madala grabbed the king and cashed the ace of hearts before exiting with the queen of diamonds. Bianchedi could be endplayed to lead away from the jack of spades but that was still a trick short, so minus 100.

Three notrump was played from the West hand at the other table and again the lead was a low club. Duboin played low from the dummy so Versace won with the king and returned a club to the ace. Duboin led a low spade off the table, the nine losing to the jack. That proved to be a very astute play, as Lauria had no way to know the position in the minor suits and his choice of the jack of clubs return was a disaster for the defence. Duboin won with the queen and cashed the ten, throwing diamonds from the table, then led his remaining spade and had three spade tricks and two diamonds to come for plus 600 and 12 IMPs to Allegra.

### Final, Segment 2 – Allegra (ITA) v Onstein BC't (NED)

After 15 boards of the 32-board final, Onstein had led 38-29. Allegra outscored them 31 to nil over the next five boards to lead by 22. Onstein had a chance to pull back 13 of that lead here:

### Board 21. Dealer North. NS Vul.

	♠ A J 2	
	♥ Q 10 7	
	♦ A K 10 4 3	
	♣ 8 3	
♠ K 10 6		♠ 9 8 7
♥ K 4 2		♥ J 9 8 6 5 3
♦ Q J 9 8		♦ —
♣ 6 5 2		♣ J 10 9 4
	♠ Q 5 4 3	
	♥ A	
	♦ 7 6 5 2	
	♣ A K Q 7	

West	North	East	South
<i>Verhees</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Van Prooijen</i>	<i>Duboin</i>
—	1NT	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
3♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	Pass	Double <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass

1. Single-suited in a major
2. Pass or correct
3. Takeout

Bilde won the heart lead with the bare ace and led the seven of diamonds to the eight and ten, an avoidance play to keep the dangerous hand off lead. When the

diamond position came to light Bilde crossed to dummy with a club to lead a spade to the jack and, when that too held, could cash out for nine tricks and plus 600.

West	North	East	South
Madala	Van den Bos	Bocchi	Van Lankveld
—	INT	Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	5♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	5♥ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	6♦ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	Pass

1. 4=1=4=4= game force
2. Sets diamonds as trumps
3. Cue bids
4. Roman Key-card Blackwood
5. 0 or 3 key cards
6. Queen ask
7. No queen of diamonds

Bocchi led the jack of clubs. Van den Bos won with the ace and led a diamond to his ace, getting the bad news. He continued with a heart to the ace and second diamond, ducking Madala's jack. Madala returned the nine of diamonds so declarer put in the ten, ruffed a heart and led a spade to the jack. Meanwhile, forced to hang on to his club holding, Bocchi had come down to two hearts and one spade. Van den Bos cashed the king of diamonds, Bocchi throwing a heart and dummy a spade, then cashed the ace of spades, followed by the last diamond. Had East held the king of hearts with his club stopper, he would now have been squeezed, but with West holding the two kings it was not to be; down one for minus 100 and another 12 IMPs to Allegra. The lead was up to 72-38, very ominous from Onstein's point of view.

There was a winning line at the end. Declarer must cash the last diamond without cashing the ace of spades.

Seeing one more discard from East should help as he will have to throw his last spade or come down to a singleton heart. Cashing the two remaining club winners now operates a positional squeeze against West and brings home the slam.

Furthermore, Madala should have returned a club when in with the jack of diamonds. If West returns a club to break up the squeeze instead of a diamond to prevent a ruff, that allows declarer to ruff his last heart in the dummy if he so wishes but he cannot shorten his own trump holding down to the same length as West and end up in dummy, so there is no trump coup and he has to lose a diamond at the end.

All that being as it may, after the first diamond, discovering the evil break, it looks as if declarer could (should?) continue with a heart to the ace, spade finesse and the spade ace (to cater for West's king-doubleton), then high clubs discarding the spade, spade ruff, heart ruff, high spade, successfully dealing with West's losing options.

There was no joy to Onstein the rest of the way. Allegra outscored them 42-3 over the last 11 boards to run out easy winners, 114-41.

Results:

1. **Allegra (ITA)**  
Alejandro Bianchedi, Norbert Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Massimiliano di Franco, Agustin Madala, Antonio Sementa
2. **BC't Onstein (NED)**  
Berend van den Bos, Joris van Lankveld, Ricco van Prooijen, Richard Ritmeijer, Magdaléna Ticha, Louk Verhees
3. **England (EBU)**  
Boye Brogeland, Espen Lindqvist, Simon Gillis, Tom Hanlon, Zia Mahmood, Erik Sælensminde



2015 European Champions Cup winners (l. to r.): Yves Aubry, EBL President, Alejandro Bianchedi, Massimiliano di Franco, Giorgio Duboin, Agustin Madala, Dennis Bilde, Norberto Bocchi, Massimo Ortensi (Coach)



**BOARD 16**  
**John Carruthers**  
**Kingsville, ON**

The “A” final of the 14<sup>th</sup> European Champions Cup featured the Dutch club team, Onstein BK’t, against Italy’s Allegra (effectively the Lavazza team), attempting to tie Angelini’s record of six wins in the event. The third-place playoff in this group pitted the nominally ‘English’ EBU team versus the aforementioned Angelini. In the “B” final, the real England team, Allfrey, played against Norway’s Heimdal.

The last board of the first half in that final match was a potential grand slam. Have a look at that deal and try to determine the best play in seven spades...

**Board 16. Dealer West. EW Vul.**

	♠ J 4 2	
	♥ A Q 10 8 4	
	♦ A 3	
	♣ A K 8	
♠ 9 5 3		♠ 8
♥ 7 6 3		♥ K J 9 2
♦ J 2		♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ J 10 6 4 2		♣ Q 9 7 3
	♠ A K Q 10 7 6	
	♥ 5	
	♦ K 10 9 6 4	
	♣ 5	

Should you reach seven spades, there are a number of lines available to you. There are 11 top tricks and the twelfth can come from a diamond ruff in the dummy provided the ace and king both survive. The thirteenth can then come from:

- (i) diamonds 3-3 or a second diamond ruff in the dummy
- (ii) the king of hearts ruffing down third or fourth
- (iii) a red-suit squeeze if either opponent guards the red suits
- (iv) a double squeeze with clubs as the pivot suit if West guards hearts in front of the dummy and East guards diamonds
- (v) a heart finesse.

There are also variations depending on which cards the defence plays as you explore whatever alternatives you decide upon. It’s a very complex play problem and you can combine some, but not all, of your chances.

Can you determine the best play?

Let’s look at how the deal was handled in those three matches. First:

**“A” Final - Allegra (ITA) v Onstein BC’t (NED)**

West	North	East	South
<i>Ticha</i>	<i>Bocchi</i>	<i>Ritmeijer</i>	<i>Bilde</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>3</sup>
Pass	5♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. Strong jump shift
2. Cue bids
3. Roman Key-card Blackwood
4. 0 or 3 key cards
5. Grand slam try, leaving partner room to bid 6♦

Ticha led the three of spades. Bilde won that with his queen, cashed the ace of spades, led a heart to the ace, then ruffed a heart low. He continued with a diamond to the ace, ruffed another heart low, played the king of diamonds, then ruffed a diamond with the jack of spades. A third heart ruff with a high trump established the queen. He drew the last trump, throwing dummy’s club loser. Dummy was high, with the ace-king of clubs and the now-established queen of hearts. That was an easy and painless plus 1510 for Allegra.

West	North	East	South
<i>Madala</i>	<i>Van den Bos</i>	<i>Bianchedi</i>	<i>Van Lankveld</i>
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>6</sup>
Pass	5♦ <sup>7</sup>	Pass	6♦ <sup>8</sup>
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. Natural or any 16+ HCP
2. Game values facing the 16+
3. Marking time
4. Good spades
5. Control bid
6. Roman Key-card Blackwood
7. 0 or 3 key cards
8. Asks for third-round diamond control for grand-slam purposes

Madala too led the three of spades. Van Lankveld won in hand with the ten and cashed the ace of spades. He then led a heart to the ace, ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the ace and a diamond back to his king, and ruffed a diamond with the jack of spades. On this trick, Madala discarded a club, not a heart, making it appear that either Madala had no more hearts or that he had the king. Thus declarer ruffed a heart high then ran his trumps. Had Madala actually begun with king-to-four hearts, there would have been a double squeeze and the eight of clubs would have taken trick 13. As it was, East could guard the red suits and West the clubs and there was no squeeze. Van Lankveld had

to concede the third round of clubs to West at trick 13 for one down and minus 50; 17 IMPs to Allegra.

### “A” Third-place Playoff - EBU (ENG) v. Angelini (ITA)

West	North	East	South
Versace	Lindqvist	Lauria	Brogeland
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♥ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	4♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	5♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	6♦ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. Transfer to spades
2. 3-card spade support
3. Control bids
4. Roman Key-card Blackwood
5. 0 or 3 key cards
6. Asks for third-round diamond control for grand-slam purposes

Brogeland received the three-of-trumps lead from Versace. He adopted the same line as Bilde, differing only in that he waited until after the first heart ruff before drawing a second round of trumps. Plus 1510 to EBU.

West	North	East	South
Gillis	Cima	Sælensminde	Giubilo
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	2NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3♦ <sup>3</sup>
Pass	3♠ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4♣ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4♦ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>5</sup>
Pass	4NT <sup>6</sup>	Pass	5♠ <sup>7</sup>
Pass	5NT <sup>8</sup>	Pass	6♦ <sup>9</sup>
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass

1. Strong
2. Waiting, balanced
3. Second suit
4. Agrees spades
5. Control bids
6. Roman Key-card Blackwood
7. 2 key cards and the queen of spades
8. Asks for specific kings
9. King of diamonds

Gillis led the by-now-familiar three of spades to the two, eight and ace. Giubilo led a heart to the ace and ruffed a heart low, then led a club to the ace and, leery of an over-ruff, ruffed another heart, but this time high. When the king did not appear, he was in trouble. He led a diamond to the ace and ruffed another heart high, establishing the queen. He would still have been okay if trumps had been 2-2 or if diamonds had been 3-3, and he had guessed which. (He'd cashed one high trump from hand, ruffed one heart low and ruffed two hearts high, using the club entry and the diamond

ace in the process, so he did not have the luxury of trying them both). Since trumps were 3-1 and diamonds 4-2, there was no winning line from that point. Giubilo led a trump to the jack, a diamond to the king and a third diamond. When Gillis could ruff in with the nine of spades, Giubilo was one off, minus 50, and lost 17 IMPs.

Although unsuccessful, Giubilo's line was not so terrible. He had needed the king of hearts to come down doubleton or third, or trumps 2-2 so that he could ruff a diamond safely after two high heart ruffs in hand. Bilde and Brogeland, the successful declarers, had taken a clearly superior line of play to Giubilo's. Nevertheless, both had risked an over-ruff of the third round of hearts, needing the suit 4-3 or West being unable to overruff if he had held a doubleton heart. But, if hearts had not broken and the third round had passed off without an over-ruff (West holding five hearts to the king, for example), they'd have had other arrows in their quiver, namely diamonds 3-3 or the double squeeze.

### “B” Final - Heimdal (NOR) v. Allfrey (ENG)

West	North	East	South
Robson	Berg	Allfrey	Johansen
Lund	Forrester	Høyem	Bakhshi

Both Berg/Johansen and Forrester/Bakhshi had the same auction as had Brogeland/Lindqvist in the third-place playoff match (see *the auction at the top of the previous column*), with all the bids having precisely the same meanings, whether natural or artificial. When was the last time you saw an 11-bid auction duplicated (or should it be triplicated?) at three tables?

Andrew Robson marches to the beat of his own drummer and eschewed the trump lead, leading instead the jack of clubs. Note that this lead reduces declarer's options by eliminating the possibility of a double squeeze with clubs as the common suit and reduces the likelihood of playing hearts for an extra trick by ruffing them out. On a club lead, with no late entry in that suit, the king of hearts would have had to come down third or trumps would have had to be 2-2 for the contract to succeed on heart ruffs.

That was the good news. The bad news (at least for Robson) was that there was still a successful line. Johansen won trick one in the dummy, drew two rounds of trumps with high ones from hand, then played three rounds of diamonds, ruffing the third with the jack of spades. He then played the king of clubs and ruffed a club high and drew the last trump. Two more rounds of spades reduced West to two hearts, dummy to the ace-queen of hearts, East to the diamond guard and one heart and declarer to a diamond and a heart. Declarer was now cold, whatever cards the defenders had started with – of course, he had to guess

what those remaining cards were!

Johansen unerringly led a heart to the ace, dropping Allfrey's king to score up a magnificent plus 1510.

At the other table in this match, Berg also led a club (this time the two), making him only the second West not to lead a trump. And Bakhshi adopted precisely the same line of play as had Johansen for a fantastic plus 1510 and a very noble pushed board.

Why did Johansen and Bakhshi drop the offside king of hearts, playing for the squeeze as opposed to the finesse, and earlier, not play for the heart king to ruff out or trumps to be 2-2? On a club lead, ruffing out the heart king requires an early decision and most declarers delay a crucial decision as long as possible. Here, declarer could see that the contract would be

makeable as long as diamonds were 3-3, the heart finesse worked or he had a squeeze. In the end, at the crucial moment, after 11 tricks, East was known to have started with four hearts to West's three, so the odds were 4:3 that East held the king. Also, let's not underestimate table presence: some Easts would not think of discarding the jack of hearts from jack-to-four, retaining a low one, so when the jack does appear, rightly or wrongly, declarer may believe it to be from king-jack-to-four rather than jack-to-four. In David Bakhshi's case, the hearts were discarded in the order two, jack, nine, in itself suspicious. Additionally, as Bakhshi pointed out, an astute West might well lead a heart away from the king, trusting that declarer would not put all his eggs in one basket and finesse at trick one.

All in all, it was a very entertaining deal.



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# IBPA Column Service

Tim Bourke, Canberra

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## 785. Dealer South. EW Vul.

	♠ K 6 5		
	♥ K Q J 5		
	♦ —		
	♣ A K J 7 5 2		
♠ Q 10 9		♠ 8 7 2	
♥ 9 8 2		♥ 6	
♦ A K 9 5 3		♦ 10 8 7 4 2	
♣ 10 3		♣ Q 8 6 4	
	♠ A J 4 3		
	♥ A 10 7 4 3		
	♦ Q J 6		
	♣ 9		

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	4♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4NT <sup>4</sup>
Pass	7♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Forcing-to-game heart raise
2. Singleton or void in clubs
3. Exclusion Key Card Blackwood
4. Two key cards outside diamonds

West led the nine of trumps and declarer paused to consider a plan. He could count nine top tricks and saw that he could add at least two more in clubs as long as the suit broke reasonably favourably. Also, if trumps were no worse than 3-1, he could use two diamond ruffs as entries to set up the clubs. All of this made it imperative to win the first trick in dummy, which he did, with the jack of trumps. Once East followed with the six of trumps declarer put his plan into action.

At trick two he cashed the ace of clubs and then ruffed a club low in his hand. After ruffing a diamond with dummy's five of trumps, declarer cashed the king of trumps then ruffed a club with his ten of trumps. Next he ruffed a diamond with dummy's queen of trumps. All that remained was to cross back to hand via a low spade to the ace to draw West's last trump with the ace, discarding dummy's remaining low spade. A spade to dummy's king was followed by the king of clubs, which left dummy with the two established clubs to cash.

**786.** (See top of next column.) West led the king of clubs which was allowed to hold. Declarer took the club

continuation with dummy's ace and made the normal play of the two of trumps to his ace. When West discarded a diamond, the contract was in jeopardy.

## 786. Dealer South. Both Vul.

	♠ 10 4 2		
	♥ J 6 2		
	♦ Q J 5 2		
	♣ A 8 6		
♠ —		♠ J 7 5 3	
♥ K 10 9 4		♥ 8 7 5	
♦ A 8 7 3		♦ 9 6 4	
♣ K Q J 7 5		♣ 10 9 4	
	♠ A K Q 9 8 6		
	♥ A Q 3		
	♦ K 10		
	♣ 3 2		

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♠
Double	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Declarer's next move was a sneaky ten of diamonds, intending to play dummy's queen if West played low. However, West rose with the ace and continued with the queen of clubs, ruffed low by declarer. Next, declarer gave West a no-win problem: he advanced the queen of hearts. If West took this with the king, declarer would get to dummy with the jack of hearts and then pick up East's trumps. So West allowed the queen of hearts to hold.

Declarer countered this by cashing the king of diamonds then advancing the eight of trumps and playing dummy's four. Now it was East who had no answer to declarer's strategy: if he ducked, declarer would have six trump tricks and an easy ten tricks. At the table, East took the jack of trumps and exited with a heart. Declarer rose with the ace then crossed to dummy by playing the nine of trumps to dummy's ten. Next he threw his heart loser on the queen of diamonds. He made five trumps, two hearts, two diamonds and a club for his contract.

**787.** (See top of next column.) After a rather wild auction, West led the king of spades. Declarer could count nine top tricks and saw that the outcome of the contract depended on playing the club suit for four tricks.

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

♠ A 4 ♥ 6 4 2 ♦ J 10 9 6 3 ♣ K 6 3  ♠ K Q J 10 2 ♥ 10 8 5 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ 8 5	♠ 9 8 6 5 3 ♥ 7 ♦ K 4 2 ♣ Q 9 7 4  ♠ 7 ♥ A K Q J 9 3 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A J 10 2
---	---

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♥
1♠	2♥	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

If the club suit were 3-3, it would be a matter of guessing who had the queen. However, declarer turned his attention to managing four tricks from clubs if the suit were 4-2.

In that case, declarer would need either to drop a doubleton queen with West or finesse twice against East for the queen. As the latter was the better option, declarer took the first trick with dummy's ace of spades and led the three of clubs from the table. When East followed with a low card, declarer inserted the ten. When that held, declarer drew trumps in three rounds then crossed to dummy with the two of clubs to the king and then took a second finesse in clubs.

With just two entries to the dummy, if declarer had drawn trumps before playing on clubs, he would have failed to make his contract against competent defence on the above layout.

**788. Dealer East. NS Vul.**

♠ 5 ♥ 7 4 ♦ K J 7 5 4 2 ♣ 10 8 7 6	♠ Q 9 8 4 ♥ 2 ♦ Q 10 9 3 ♣ K 9 5 2  ♠ K J ♥ A J 10 9 8 6 5 ♦ 8 ♣ A J 3  ♠ A 10 7 6 3 2 ♥ K Q 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ Q 4
---	---

West	North	East	South
—	—	1♥	1♠
Pass	2♥	3♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the seven of hearts, suggesting that he had a singleton or doubleton, and marking East with at least

seven cards in the suit.. East took the trick with the ace of hearts and saw that the defence would need a diamond trick to set four spades. Accordingly, he shifted to the eight of diamonds at trick two.

Declarer did not like his prospects now because he was certain that East would not lead away from the king of diamonds here when he had a safe heart exit. Consequently, declarer rose with the ace of diamonds and tried for his main chance of making the contract, by playing the ace of trumps and dropping a singleton king of trumps.

When East followed to the ace of trumps with the jack, declarer realised that the only hope for ten tricks was for East to have started with 2=7=1=3 shape. So, after discarding a diamond from dummy on his king of hearts, declarer ruffed the queen of hearts and led a low club towards his hand. East followed with the three and declarer's queen of clubs won the trick. All that remained was to throw East in with a trump. As a result, East had the choice of either leading a heart, allowing declarer to discard his diamond loser while ruffing in dummy, or of setting up dummy's king of clubs for declarer's tenth trick.



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VENUE: HARSHAL HALLS, 153 Karve Road, Next to Kasat Petrol Pump, Kothrud, Pune

## 57th INDIAN WINTER NATIONALS

Pune, Maharashtra, India

November 16-22, 2015

**Anant Bhagwat, Thane**

**Bholanath Das, Kolkata**

The Winter Nationals is India's most important tournament. Its flagship event, the Ruia Gold Cup, is our biggest team championship and the Shree Cement Pairs (which used to be called the Holkar Pairs) the premier matchpoint event in the country. Pune, with a population of just over three million and the cultural centre of Maharashtra state, hosted this year's tournament.

Vinay Desai achieved a great match point score on the following deal:

**Dealer South. Both Vul.**

♠ Q 10  
♥ 7 4 2  
♦ K 10 9 7  
♣ A J 7 5

♠ J 8 7	♠ K 9 6 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 8 6 5	♥ 3
♦ J 6	♦ 4 3 2
♣ 6 4 3	♣ K 10 2

♠ A 2  
♥ A K J 9  
♦ A Q 8 5  
♣ Q 9 8

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Desai was South. Three notrump is in no danger, but this being matchpointed pairs, one has to score the maximum number of tricks. Desai received the lead of the six of hearts. He won with his nine and finessed the jack of clubs. East won with his king and pondered over the return. It was obvious that he had a singleton heart. Ultimately, he backed a diamond. From this return, Desai inferred that East held the king of spades; otherwise, his logical return was a spade. Desai could see that 11 tricks could easily be made if the clubs were 3-3. To get a top, he had to score 12 tricks. The twelfth could only come from a squeeze. For that to occur, West must hold guards in both majors. Was it possible?

Desai found an elegant answer. He won the diamond shift with the king over West's jack and led a heart to the ace. East showed out, discarding a spade. Desai cashed the club queen and went to dummy with the club ace, discovering the 3-3 break. Now came the telling blow: Desai played the spade queen from dummy, forcing East to cover with the king. Desai won the king of spades with the ace and ran the diamonds ending in the dummy. On the thirteenth club, he threw his low spade. The position was:

♠ 10		♠ 9 6 5
♥ 2		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ 7		♣ —
♠ J		
♥ Q 10		
♦ —		
♣ —		
	♠ 2	
	♥ K J	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

In this position When Vinay cashed the last club, West had to surrender. He either had throw the spade jack or unguard the heart queen. The choice of poison was his. Desai made 12 tricks. Such declarers are a menace to the defenders.

On the next deal. Raju Gulavani had the distinction of throwing in both opponents on one deal.

**Dealer South. EW Vul.**

♠ A J 9 2  
♥ A 8 6 4  
♦ Q 3  
♣ 9 8 4

♠ K 10 8 6 3	♠ Q
♥ Q 5 2	♥ J 10 9 3
♦ J	♦ K 10 9 8 7 5 2
♣ K J 5 2	♣ 3

♠ 7 5 4  
♥ K 7  
♦ A 6 4  
♣ A Q 10 7 6

West	North	East	South
—	<i>Poddar</i>	—	<i>Gulavani</i>
1♠	Double	Pass	1♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	INT
Pass			Pass

West led the two of clubs. Gulavani played the nine from dummy, got the three from East, and overtook it with his ten. He led a spade to the nine and queen. East shifted to the jack of hearts, ducked all around. East continued with the three of hearts to South's king. Gulavani led a spade to dummy's jack and cashed the ace of hearts. When both defenders followed, he

exited from dummy with a heart, endplaying East, who had only diamonds remaining. That player exited with a diamond and dummy's queen won, West throwing a spade. When declarer led a diamond to his ace, West had to part with a club. Then the ace and another spade forced West to lead into the ace-queen of clubs. That was nine tricks and plus 400.

Amarnath Banerjee was in the Indian team that recently played in the World Bridge Championships in Chennai. He has been a part of the Indian Railways Team for nearly two decades. Watch him in action on this deal from the last round of Swiss league qualifying in the Ruia Gold Cup.

**Dealer South. Neither Vul.**

<p>♠ A Q 8 5 4 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 6 4 3 ♣ K 9 2</p> <p>♠ K J 10 2 ♥ K J 8 7 6 ♦ 2 ♣ A 5 4</p>	<p>♠ 3 ♥ 9 4 3 2 ♦ K J 9 5 ♣ J 10 6 3</p>
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<p>♠ 9 7 6 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ A Q 10 7 ♣ Q 8 7</p>	
--	--

Banerjee was South.

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1♦
1♥	1♠	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led a low heart. Banerjee won with his ten, led a spade to the queen and a diamond to the queen. On another spade toward the dummy, West followed with the ten. Amarnath could not duck that as East might win with the jack and lead a heart through, so he put up the ace. It was a big blow when East showed out, discarding a heart. Nevertheless, Banerjee continued with another spade from the dummy, inconveniencing West, who exited with a heart to declarer's queen.

At this point, Banerjee claimed the contract on a further endplay. The defenders hotly contested this claim. Banerjee explained: he would cash the ace of diamonds to squeeze West in three suits. West cannot pitch a spade as that would set up two spade tricks in the dummy; he cannot throw a club from ace-to-three as declarer can lead a club to the king, then duck one on the way back to set up two tricks in the suit. So, West must discard a heart. Declarer cashes the ace of hearts, leads a club to the king and endplays West with a spade. West can take one heart trick but then must allow declarer to score the queen of clubs. When Banerjee explained all of this, the opponents acquiesced.

On the following deal from the Ruia Gold Cup semifinal between Samardhan and Shree Cement, the defence got its wires crossed, allowing Ivan Alphonso to make an 'impossible' three-notrump contract.

Many Congratulations to INDIAN RAILWAYS (Subir Majumder, Sumit Mukherjee, Rana Roy, Amarnath Banerjee, Sandip Datta) for being the winners of the Ruia Gold Trophy, as well as runnersup SAMADHAN (Ravi Raman, Subhash Bhavnani, Ivan Alphonso, Finton Lewis, Arvind Vaidya, TV Ramani).



## 2015 CAVENDISH INVITATIONAL

### Jean-Paul Mayer, Paris

### Mark Horton, Sutton Benger, Wilts., UK

Unlike most bridge tournaments worldwide, the main event at the Cavendish is the Invitational Pairs. Originally a single-event tournament, it has been augmented by a teams contest and, more recently, a Women's Pairs. This year, the teams was won by the Dutch team of Agnes Snellers/Wubbo de Boer and Berend van den Bos/Joris van Lankveld.

From the teams (JPM):

When Marill met Wigoder (Round 2), the French team (Marill) emerged as the winner 30-21. The difference came from board 13 when Philippe Toffier was declarer in a precarious four spades doubled. The outcome looked

unfavourable for declarer: firstly, he had to play in a 4-3 trump fit; secondly, the trumps held by the defence were divided 5-1. Not very comfortable, you must admit.

**Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.**

<p>♠ J ♥ K Q J 7 2 ♦ J 10 9 6 ♣ K 8 2</p> <p>♠ Q 5 4 2 ♥ A 10 9 6 ♦ A 5 4 ♣ J 7</p>	<p>♠ A 9 8 ♥ 4 ♦ K 7 3 2 ♣ A Q 6 4 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 7 6 3 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ 10 9 5</p>
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West	North	East	South
<i>Toffier</i>	<i>Nowosadzki</i>	<i>Palau</i>	<i>Kalita</i>
—	1♥	Double	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
2♥	3♥	Pass	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Heart raise

North made the obvious lead of the king of hearts. Everything went quickly and smoothly for the declarer. Ace of hearts, club to the queen, ace of clubs, then a third club was ruffed in hand, North and South both following. Declarer ruffed a heart in the dummy, followed by the king and ace of diamonds and a second heart ruffed in dummy. If you have watched carefully, you know that the declarer had already taken eight trick. South was not so happy having, as his last five cards, his five trumps to the king. This was not sufficient to prevent West from scoring his queen of spades in hand and the ace of trumps in the dummy. Ten tricks without even noticing the very bad trump break.

In the other room Charles Wigoder (USA) played the quiet contract of three spades for plus 170, a 13-IMP swing.

Following the teams, the auctions for the Open Pairs and Women's Pairs produced the following top prices (all prices are in Euro):

#### Open

Helgemo/Helness	35,000
Duboin/Madala	30,000
Mahmood/Bilde	25,000

#### Women

Willard/Cronier	10,000
Zochowska/Rees	7,000
Frey/d'Ovidio	6,000

The pairs events are scored at IMPs across the field. The top place-getters were:

Open Pairs	IMPs
1 Mesbur/Fitzgibbon	610.0
2 Vainikonis/Olanski	463.8
3 Bahbout/Vandervorst	369.1

#### Women's Pairs

1 Labaere-Saporta	296.8
2 Rakhmani-Yakovleva	288.2
3 Baldysz-Sarniak	250.6

Here are a few deals from the pairs:

#### Triskaidekaphobia (MH)

Triskaidekaphobia is fear of the number 13. It is a superstition, perhaps originating from the fact that the thirteenth person at the Last Supper was Judas, who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and ultimately hanged himself.

I can't tell you if bridge players hold the number in awe, but it is surprising how often it delivers a dramatic deal.

This was the layout of the fateful board in Round 5.

#### Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ 5	
♥ A 7	
♦ Q 10 6 2	
♣ A 9 7 6 4 2	
♠ Q 10 9 6 3	♠ J 7 2
♥ K 2	♥ J 10 8 6 3
♦ 5 3	♦ 8 7 4
♣ K Q 8 3	♣ J 10
♠ A K 8 4	
♥ Q 9 5 4	
♦ A K J 9	
♣ 5	

West	North	East	South
<i>Mahmood</i>	<i>Demuy</i>	<i>Bilde</i>	<i>Hurd</i>
—	1♣	Pass	1♥
1♠	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the three of spades and when East played the jack declarer ducked. He won the next spade with the ace and played a club to the ace and another club, discarding the four of hearts. East returned his remaining spade and declarer won, pitching a club, played a diamond to the queen and two more diamonds.

In the five-card ending, West was down to:

♠ 9
♥ K 2
♦ —
♣ K Q

and, when declarer played the jack of diamonds, he took his best shot by pitching the two of hearts. However, declarer made no mistake and he played a heart, collecting the two tricks he needed with the ace and queen, plus 600.

#### With a Little Finesse (MH)

#### Board 8. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ Q J 10 4 3 2	
♥ —	
♦ A 6 3 2	
♣ K 10 6	
♠ K	♠ 9 8 6 5
♥ J 10 9 4 3	♥ A K Q 6
♦ K 9 7	♦ Q 8 4
♣ J 9 5 4	♣ 8 7
♠ A 7	
♥ 8 7 5 2	
♦ J 10 5	
♣ A Q 3 2	

West	North	East	South
<i>Volcker</i>	<i>Quentin</i>	<i>Bessis</i>	<i>Franceschetti</i>
Pass	1♠	Pass	INT
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East led the ace of hearts and, when West followed with the three, declarer ruffed and ran the queen of spades (which offers a 13.5% chance of avoiding a loser) to West's king. Back came the ten of hearts and, when declarer ruffed, East followed with the king, suggesting something useful in diamonds. Declarer crossed to dummy with a spade and West pitched the four of hearts. With plenty of entries the best chance of scoring four tricks in clubs is to play low to the ace and then low to the king (54.8%) but that was not an option here.

The play to the first trick suggested that West had started with five hearts, which meant that East was known to hold eight cards in the majors. That made West the favourite to have length in clubs, so declarer played a club to the ten and was home, plus 420. That was worth 139 IMPs – going down would have cost 189.

### Hold the Front Page\* (MH)

\* Used to draw attention to an important or noteworthy fact or occurrence.

I was following play during the morning session yesterday and had already noted a couple of interesting deals, when this one came up on screen:

#### Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K Q J 8
♥ J 9 6 3
♦ 10 6 3
♣ 8 3
♠ 2
♥ Q 8 4
♦ 7 5 4 2
♣ A K Q 6 5
♠ A 9 6 5 4
♥ —
♦ K 9 8
♣ J 10 9 7 2

West	North	East	South
Piedra	Hanlon	Lanteron	Carroll
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	Pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>	1♠
Double <sup>2</sup>	3♠	5♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

1. Hearts
2. Support double (3-card heart support)

South led the ace of spades and North followed with the king. Perhaps interpreting it as a suit-preference signal, South switched to the eight of diamonds and declarer won with the queen, ruffed a spade, cashed the queen of hearts and claimed when South showed out, plus 980.

Suppose that South continues with a spade at trick two? Declarer ruffs, cashes the queen of hearts and then plays five more rounds of the suit. On the last of

these, South will be down to a doubleton king of diamonds and four clubs and be forced to blank the king of diamonds or unguard the clubs.

This is the position after the last trump has been cashed:

♠ Q	
♥ —	
♦ 10 6	
♣ 8 3	
♠ —	♠ 10
♥ —	♥ —
♦ 7	♦ A Q J
♣ A K Q 6	♣ 4
♠ —	
♥ —	
♦ K	
♣ J 10 9 7	

Declarer needn't commit himself to dropping the king of diamonds just yet. On the bidding and early play, he knows that North holds the sole guard in spades, so declarer takes the three top clubs, learning that South has the guard there. On the third of these, North must discard a diamond to keep the queen of spades, so declarer can let go of the spade ten. At this point the defenders' diamonds must be 1-1 since North has a spade and South a club, so a diamond to the ace wins the pot.

Let's move to another table:

West	North	East	South
Hydes	Berg	Mossop	Hansen
—	—	—	Pass
1♣	1♠	2♥	4♥ <sup>1</sup>
Double <sup>2</sup>	4♠	5♦	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Splinter-bid
2. Heart support

Jonny Hansen led the ace of spades and once again North contributed the king. Now came the devastating switch to the two of clubs! With the link to dummy severed, declarer was without resource and had to go one down, minus 50. Making six hearts was worth 189 IMPs; being defeated cost 123 – not a bad swing for the young Norwegian.



Winners of the 2015 Cavendish Invitational Pairs in Monaco: Nick Fitzgibbon & Adam Mesbur from Ireland



## Correspondence

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence.

Email: [ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca](mailto:ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca)

Hi John,

I read with interest Joey Silver's thoughts on the VuGraph presentation in the World Championships in Chennai. I am indeed one of the commentators referred to by Joey and regrettably endured a most unpleasant spray of criticism at the venue along the lines of his letter. When I suggested to Joey that he had the ultimate right of veto and could choose not to attend the VuGraph and watch the BBO presentation, I was shouted at in the most unpleasant way in the lobby of the hotel.

Dealing with his points specifically. Yes, indeed, I do play online Scrabble during the VuGraph presentation – usually during one or two deals. Not every deal is worthy of constant discussion and the audience and commentators are entitled to a break for one or two deals where the contract is, say, four hearts with 11 top tricks. Doing this is a form of relief from the intense concentration required to commentate. Joey is the first person to abuse the commentators when even the slightest misanalysis takes place.

System – really! When I commentated, at the beginning of each session I loaded a copy of all four pairs' systems onto my iPad and the audience was given a complete summary of the systems being employed by the players at both tables. Whenever unusual bids were made, the commentators referred to the system notes to keep the audience informed where possible. Surely Joey is not suggesting that we should, or even possibly could, have a total working knowledge of the systems of approximately 200 pairs playing at the tournament.

It is a trend that players who might have watched VuGraph presentations in a well-appointed theatre in the past now choose to watch on BBO or OurGame in the comfort of their rooms or while sitting by the pool. I myself prefer to plug my iPad into the hotel TV and watch the BBO presentation in my room. Attempting to link this phenomenon with the quality of the VuGraph Theatre presentation is spurious and misleading.

I personally received compliments on the quality of the VuGraph presentation and commentary and, while taking Joey's comments on board, I will simply put Joey into the category of those people who cannot be easily pleased.

Kind regards, David Stern, Sydney

Hallo JC,

The majority of unethical practices in major events can be curbed by means of the following four techniques:

1. deploying very good quality video equipment, the results of which would be acceptable as evidence if

required; this would curb the use of techniques like signalling by positioning of bids, positioning of cards and similar methods

2. deploying of effective monitoring of toilet-visit protocol, as that is a place where, potentially, U.I. can be garnered
3. strict checks on personal electronic devices being unconditionally banned in the playing area (except pacemakers, hearing aids and/or similar devices); this would ensure that technology is not misused to gather U.I.
4. the creation of an expert committee to review deals played where unusual results were achieved by illogical bids/plays; the spectre of this expert committee sitting on judgement of illogical/irrational bids/plays should work as an effective deterrent.

The protocol to handle unethical practices in varied environments needs an in-depth analysis of the issues involved and then creation of a solution. It's my feeling that the zonal councils and the WBF should come out with a document that makes organizers of events and players aware of the potential cheating areas and the avenues available to curb such practices. Finally, listing fines/punishments for offences would also need to be covered.

We are indeed fortunate to have had people like Boye Brogeland, Steve Weinstein, Kit Woolsey and the entire team of experts who have exposed unethical practices and suggested remedial measures. Now is the time to pool all our skills with the zonal councils and the WBF to clean up the game as best as we can.

Regards, Dilip Gidwani, Mumbai

Hi John,

I'm just reading the IBPA November edition, and noted mention of the 'administrative difficulties' being a problem with late payments. Perhaps it's because when we pay in foreign currencies it ends up costing a transaction fee and a currency conversion fee.

However, there is a credit card that pays in whatever is the local currency without any transaction or conversion fees, and the c.c. itself is free of annual costs! It's called 28 degrees and this is its website:

<http://www.28degreescard.com.au>

I just thought that you might like to pass on such information to Herman De Wael and IBPA members should it be a viable option.

Cheers, Barbara Travis, Adelaide

## NEWS & VIEWS



### ACBL Bridge Integrity Task Force

The ACBL has created a task force of top players to address the issues raised by the cheating scandal over the past few months. The task force will look at:

- creating a climate where playing bridge ethically is the norm
- developing methods to detect suspicious behavior
- finding and recruiting the right people to investigate cheating allegations
- prosecuting offenders fairly and confidentially, but with finality.

The task force members are: Howard Weinstein, Chair, Karen Allison, Larry Cohen, Per-Ola Cullin, Eric Kokish, Jeff Meckstroth, Brad Moss, Steve Weinstein, Chris Willenken and Kit Woolsey.

### The Future of the Cavendish

The next Cavendish Invitational Pairs will be in Monte Carlo in February 2017. Current plans call for the 1<sup>st</sup> European Winter Games to be held in the Principality in February 2016 and the even-numbered years thereafter. The Cavendish will be held in the odd-numbered years.

The European Winter Games will comprise two events, the Zimmermann Cup and the FMB Board-a-Match Trophy. Teams not qualifying for the knockout phase of the Zimmermann Cup are automatically eligible for the FMB BAM Trophy. New teams can also enter the FMB BAM Trophy.

Prizes around 150,000 Euro in total are promised.

### New Event in Wroclaw

The WBF has announced that they are instituting a National Mixed Teams event in the 2016 World Bridge Games in Poland next year. The Mixed Teams will run in parallel with, and have the same format as, the Open, Women's and Senior Teams.

### Joint Statement of the ACBL and Mike Passell

Due to the unprecedented publicity regarding the disciplinary charges brought against Mike Passell, the ACBL and Mike Passell have agreed to issue this joint statement. A complaint was filed against Mike Passell resulting from an incident at the Palmetto Regional in February 2015. A hearing of those charges was held in July before the ACBL Ethical Oversight Committee. An automatic review and appeal of the EOC findings was held in Denver on Sunday, Nov. 22, before the

ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee. The conclusions of the A&C Committee were received by the ACBL Board of Directors.

As a result of the appellate hearing and review before the A&C Committee: Mike Passell acknowledges fouling a board at the 2015 Palmetto Regional. Mike Passell acknowledges failing to call the director after the incident.

The EOC found Mike Passell guilty of violating sections 3.1, 3.7 and 3.20 of the Code of Disciplinary Regulations.

In its conviction for section 3.20, the EOC listed only an ethical violation (but not cheating). These findings were affirmed by the Appeals and Charges Committee.

The EOC used section E13 of the sentencing guidelines to determine Mike Passell's sentence. The Appeals and Charges Committee determined the correct guideline was E18.

The A&C Committee modified Mike Passell's 13-month probation to suspension for 14 days starting Dec. 20, 2015.

The A&C Committee modified Mike Passell's forfeiture of 25% of his lifetime masterpoints to the 15.40 MPs earned in the Palmetto event.

### G.B & Winston/Bobby & Steve

In the 1920s, good friends George Bernard Shaw and Winston Churchill reportedly had the following exchange on the occasion of the opening of one of Shaw's plays, possibly *Pygmalion*, in London's West End:

Shaw: "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend – if you have one."

Churchill: "Cannot possibly attend first night; will attend second – if there is one."

We were reminded of this possibly-apocryphal exchange when Stevie Weinstein published an article on BridgeWinners entitled, "Where do we go from here?" referring to going forward from the cheating allegations. Stevie's partner, Bobby Levin, wrote to him:

Levin: "Great article, Liz (*Steve's wife – Ed.*). Another issue we need to address is how to make it more difficult for these low-life cheats to come back and sue the leagues for depriving them of the right to make a living after they have been found guilty of cheating."

Weinstein: "Bobby – Liz says thanks. We both thought it was nice of Jill to read it out loud to you."



# The International Bridge Press Association

## IBPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday morning, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2015 – Chennai, India Minutes

0. **Attendance:** 36 (see list below)

1. **Remembrance** of members deceased since last AGM: Kathy Fallenius, Brigitte Mavromichalis, Steen Møller. Henry Bethe (member until 2012), Jean Claude Beineix (member until 2012), Ernesto D'Orsi.

2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 20th October 2014 in Sanya, Hainan, China - Approved.

3. **Officers' Reports:** President, Chairman, Secretary (attached)

4. **Appointees' Reports:** Editor, Membership Secretary (attached)

### 5. **Treasurer**

Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 is read out by Per Jannersten. The deficit of 2,605\$ is caused by a loss of over 4,000\$ on exchange rates. The accounts are approved.

Auditor's report for 2014 (Richard Fleet) read out by Per Jannersten – Approved.

Budget for 2016: membership earnings are lowered, so the budget presents a loss, but travel expenses are frequently left unneeded. - Approved

Proposal regarding subscriptions for the year 2016 : they can remain unchanged, but the added subscription for the printed bulletin is increased to 60\$ – Approved.

### 6. **Elections:**

The current officers have been elected until 2016.

Proposed for annual election are:

Hon. Auditor: Richard Fleet - Approved

Hon. General Counsel: David Harris - Approved

### 7. **Election of Executive members:**

Proposed for a 3-year election to 2018: GeO Tislevoll (NZ); Jerry Li (China); Ron Tacchi (France). - Approved

The Executive announces that Jeremy Dhondy is no longer co-opted in the executive. He is no longer the Membership Secretary. Herman De Wael is appointed to that post.

Just before the General Meeting, Executive Member David Stern handed in his resignation from the executive. He disagreed with the announcement, at this premature moment in time, of the Personality of the Year (see below).

### 8. **The IBPA Annual Awards**

Barry Rigal presented four awards, Patrick Jourdain presented the Alan Truscott Awards (to the Investigators) and the Personality of the Year (to Boye Brogeland). The citation for the POTY reads as follows:

*Our Personality might well have been named previously for his achievements at the bridge table. This year other activities made him a Personality in the bridge world.*

*It is not IBPA's role to express an opinion on the allegations made in recent weeks, but we could not disregard the name that will no doubt be associated with bridge in 2015. A much tougher decision was how to handle this conclusion.*

*Have our recipient's decisions and actions in the past few weeks all been correct? Most probably not. Were they brave? Yes. Has he forced many organisations, including IBPA, into difficult decisions? Certainly.*

*We are the International Bridge Press Association. It is not our job to judge innocence or guilt. We merely acknowledge the bridge personality who in the last year has made the greatest impact in the media. Our naming IS not, and MUST not be interpreted as a judgment on any of the ongoing processes. The IBPA Personality of 2015 is Boye Brogeland.*

### 9. **Any other competent business**

The Job Descriptions are updated with a section on the President Emeritus:

## President Emeritus

President Emeritus is an honorary title given to any living Past President of the IBPA. There may be more than one. The title may only be removed by proposal of the Executive Committee approved by a General Meeting. President emeriti shall be listed as such in the IBPA's Bulletin.

A President emeritus has the right to receive the Agenda and Minutes for meetings of the Executive and, upon his notification to the Secretary, to attend in person without a vote. If present at an event where the IBPA President and vice-Presidents are absent he shall be deemed the senior officer of the IBPA present, and, as such, may be allocated a role by the IBPA President.

Herman De Wael, Secretary.

## List of attendees to the AGM

Yves Aubry, Anant Bhagwat, John Carruthers, Mirek Cichocki, Simon Cochemé, Simon Cope, Maureen Dennison, Herman De Wael, Simon Fellus, Azwerul Haque, Panos Gerontopoulos, Dilip Gidwani, Davis Harris, Britt Jannersten, Per Jannersten, Patrick Jourdain, Laurie Kelso, Ron Klinger, Fernando Lema, Marshall Lewis, Jerri Li, Jean Paul Meyer, Kailas Pat Newatia, T.C. Pant, George Retek, Barry Rigal, Pierre Schmidt, David Stern, Jan Swaan, GeO Tislevoll, Jan van Cleeff, Elisabeth van Ettinger, Howard Weinstein, John Wignall, Marek Wojcicki, Michael Yuen (36)

## **Reports to the AGM**

Chennai, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2015

### **IBPA President's Report 2015**

Deceased: Kathy Fallenius, Brigitte Mavromichalis, Henry Bethe, one of our most distinguished authors, journalist and long-standing members: Steen Moller; and our great friend, Ernesto d'Orsi.

Until a month ago the main event for IBPA since the last AGM, was the resignation of our Membership Secretary, Jeremy Dhondy of England, who had very nobly continued with that appointment after taking on the onerous duty of becoming Chairman of the English Bridge Union. The two jobs eventually proved too much and he relinquished the IBPA one having processed most of the 2015 memberships. Our thanks go to Jeremy for that.

I am pleased to report that our Secretary, Herman De Wael, appointed pro tem as Membership Secretary, has agreed to combine the two jobs and your Executive was happy to confirm his appointment as Membership Secretary.

Your Executive had been concerned by the continuing gentle downward drift in our Membership and this was looking more serious early in 2015. Our reaction was to spend some funds on a sample Bulletin available to attendees in Chennai in the hope of new recruits. So far we have only two new members here, but, of the 12 2014 members here who had failed to pay for 2015, 11 have re-newed.

In my thanks I start with the World Bridge Federation for their annual grant to IBPA. The two organizations have a mutual interest in the wellbeing of bridge. Next our Award sponsors: Ron & Suzi Klinger, Nick Nickell, Chen Yeh, Ray Lee, and Dilip Gidwani have continued their support and our thanks are due to them.

The Press Room here in Chennai is perhaps the largest we have ever had and we thank the Press Room Manager, Jan Swaan, for his very helpful way of looking after us.

I said not much had happened in IBPA until a month ago. Since then there has been an upheaval in the bridge world affecting many here today. It has meant several people facing agonizing decisions. At this stage I can only say it has given your Executive what may be its most difficult decision since I joined it more than thirty years ago. I fully respect the differing views that have been expressed and hope all members will do so as well. So with more emphasis than usual I want to thank your Officers, Executive members, and appointees. I am completely confident that each voted as they saw their duty to IBPA.

Patrick Jourdain

### **Chairman's Report 2015**

I am happy to report that our organization is in good standing (also in Montana's Secretary of State eyes). It is not a winning strategy to be standing, however. Members need to be reminded that they have a duty and self interest to recruit new members. I hope that both individual members and the Executive will give recruiting higher priority in the future.

Per Jannersten

## **Secretary's Report**

My duties as Secretary are mostly just administrative, as such, there is not much to report to the AGM.

Herman De Wael

## **Editor's Report**

It was business as usual for the past 12 months until I spent \$332 on a telephone call with Boye Brogeland after the Summer Nationals in Chicago. We have seen what has happened since then.

My thanks go out to my crack team of reviewers: PO Sundelin, who makes sure that when I say a finesse wins, it actually does win; Katie Thorpe, who ensures that every deal has a two of clubs; and Phillip Alder, who chides me if I forget that a bridge deal consists of 52 cards while a bridge hand has only 13. The usual suspects provided us with many entertaining and instructive deals; chief among them were Barry Rigal, Tim Bourke, Mark Horton, Ron Klinger, Phillip Alder, Marek Wojcicki and Fernando Lema. Most of the Bulletin material came from authors in Europe, North America and Australia, although South America and Asia were also represented.

I'd like to proffer special thanks to Dilip Gidwani, who manages the hard copy version of the Bulletin, arranging for printing and mailing from Mumbai, and to Katie Thorpe, who uploads the online version and emails the link to members.

John Carruthers

## **Membership Secretary's Report 2015**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Members	292	282	270	277	246
Of whom Printed Copies	49	37	27	21	17
Of whom new/rejoining	15	20	25	42	18
Have not renewed as of 2/10/15	29	29	37	28	49

Membership is down by over 10%. The previous year's high number of new members is reflected in the number of non-renewals. We have a large number of members who join at a championship but fail to renew in January. Maybe we need to make it as easy as possible for people to pay their subscriptions. The number taking the printed bulletin continues to fall, which is one of the reasons why the price for this service will need to go up.

Members who have notified resignation or died since the 2014 AGM:

Kathy Fallenius, Brigitte Mavromichalis, Steen Moller, Ernesto d'Orsi, Ton Schipperheijn, Sally Brock (-6).

Have not paid their subscription for 2015:

Ajania Nurdin, Andersson Gunnar, Arnesen Kirsten Rita, Barden Bianca, Barrett G.S. Jade, Bass Richard K, Beauvillain Olivier, Chaudhuri Amit, Chavarria Kaifmann Mario, Cronier Philippe, De Boer Wubbo, De Waele Nira, Del'Monte Ishmael, Dix Mario, Endicott OBE Grattan, Eschweiler Armin, Eskes Onno, Gibson Michael, Green Benjamin, Grosfils Colette, Hallén Hans-Olof, Herber Louk, Hinge Simon, Hung Andy, Kristjansson Bjarni, Lantarón Luis, Levy Alvin, Levy Didier, Matos Pedro M P, McGowan Elizabeth A, McIntosh Andrew, Nicholson Russell, Noda Yuko, O'Connor Michael, Parnis England Margaret, Rémy Eric, Rizvi Ahsan Zahir, Shenkin Barnett J, Smith Stephen Joseph, Snyder Gene, Spruit Pieter, van Reenen Alex, Vornicu Constantin (-43).

New members in 2015 (Sanya AGM to Chennai AGM 3/10/15)

Yves Aubry, Rob Clark, Justin Corfield, Chris Dixon, Valentin Foncez, Paolo Garrisi, Jude Goodwin, David Harris, Julian Laderman, Jean Paul Meyer, Yves Mucha, Rui Marques (rejoining), Els Witteveen (rejoining), Bob Hamman (rejoining), Brian Glubok, Sam Whitten, David Price, Marcelo Caracci (+18).

Herman De Wael (with help from and thanks to my predecessor Jeremy Dhondy)

## **Accounts for 2014 (excerpt)** INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET As at 31 December 2014 (in USD)

Assets	2013	2014
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Trade debtors	600	0
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>74,413</u>	<u>72,566</u>
Total assets	75,013	72,566

<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Award Money in advance	2,000	2,000
Trade and other payables	92	250
Total Current Liabilities	2092	2,250
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>72,921</u>	<u>70,316</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Retained profit brought forward	71,771	72,921
Profit and loss account	1150	-2,605
<b>Total reserves</b>	<u>72,921</u>	<u>70,316</u>

**INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION  
INCOME STATEMENT**

For the year ended 31 December 2014

	2013	2014	budget 2014	budget 2015	budget 2016
<b>Income</b>	<b>20,546</b>	<b>20,749</b>	<b>21,210</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>19,000</b>
Subscriptions	10,884	10,188	11,760	11,760	10,500
Subscriptions due – printing	945	1,035	1,350	1,080	900
WBF grant	2,500	2,480	2,500	2,500	2,500
Award Sponsors	4,500	7,000	5,500	5,000	5,000
Interest received	58	46	100	60	100
Surplus on exchange rate	1,659	0	0	0	0
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>19,396</b>	<b>23,354</b>	<b>21,800</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>20,600</b>
Bulletin Editor's Fee	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Bulletin Editor's Allowance	1,600	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bulletin Editor's Travel	600	600	1,200	1,200	1,200
Bulletin Hands Columnist	900	900	900	1,000	1,000
Bulletin Printing and postage	1,335	1,242	1,800	1,100	900
President's Allowance	500	500	500	500	500
President's Travel	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,000
Treasurer's Allowance	500	445	500	500	500
Treasurer's Travel	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Membership Secretary's Allowance	500	500	500	500	500
IBPA award Prizes	2,000	1,700	2,600	2,400	2,400
IBPA Award Costs	567	600	200	200	200
Credit Card Charges	413	449	500	500	500
Bank charges	281	457	500	500	500
Miscellaneous Costs	0	123	400	400	400
Loss on Exchange	0	4,638	0	0	0
<b>EXCESS INC / EXP</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>-2,605</b>	<b>-590</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-1,600</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2014

**1. Subscriptions paid in advance**

Subscriptions paid in advance according to the income statement confirm a liability for the year ended 31 December 2014 to the extent of \$4,761.

**2.Assets**

Computers, printers and fax machines are all written off to NIL during the year of purchase.

**3. Cash Funds 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.**

	<b>US\$</b>
HSBC – Euro Account (Euro 27,833)	33,688
HSBC – US\$ Account	35,745
Paypal	3,133

Per Balance Sheet 72,566

Richard Solomon

# World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
<b>2015</b>			
Dec 13-18	UAE National Day Bridge Festival	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	amr.mekky@hotmail.com
Dec 16-20	Cape Festival of Bridge	Capetown, South Africa	www.sabf.co.za
Dec 27-30	Year End Congress	London, England	www.ebu.co.uk
<b>2016</b>			
Jan	World Online Youth Team Championship	BBO	www.worldbridge.org
Jan 9-10	7 <sup>th</sup> TGR's Auction Pairs	London, England	www.tgrsbridge.com
Jan 11-20	75 <sup>th</sup> International Week	St. Moritz, Switzerland	www.bridge-stmoritz.ch
Jan 12-24	Summer Festival of Bridge	Canberra, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jan 19-22	Copenhagen Invitational	Copenhagen, Denmark	http://cbi.bridge.dk
Jan 23-29	Bermuda Regional	Southampton, Bermuda	www.bermudaregional.com
Jan 28-31	Reykjavik Bridge Festival	Reykjavik, Iceland	www.reykjavikbridgefestival.com
Jan 28-31	Winter in Vienna	Vienna, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Feb 1-7	EBU Overseas Congress	Paphos, Cyprus	www.ebu.co.uk
Feb 5-11	1 <sup>st</sup> European Winter Games	Monte Carlo, Monaco	contact@federation-bridge.mc
Feb 19-27	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.qldbridge.com
Feb 24-28	Festival du Soleil	Cannes, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
Feb 29-Mar 6	Festival de Montegrotto	Montegrotto Terme, Italy	www.federbridge.it
Mar 10-20	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Mar 15-20	Kitzbüheler BridgeWeek	Kitzbühel, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
Mar 16	Simultaneous Pairs for Youth Bridge	Online	www.worldbridge.org
Mar 18-20	International Team Festival	Lisbon, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Mar 20-25	White House Junior Int'l Teams	Amsterdam, Netherlands	www.jeugdbridge.nl
Mar 22-27	121 <sup>st</sup> Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON	www.unit166.ca
Mar 31-Apr 3	Tasmanian Festival of Bridge	Hobart, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Apr 15-24	Asia Open Bridge Congress	Beijing, China	www.zgqpw.com.cn
Apr 22-May 1	Lambourne Jersey Festival	Jersey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 1	German Bridge Team Trophy	Berlin, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
Apr 29-May 3	Schapiro Spring Foursomes	Stratford-upon-Avon, England	www.ebu.co.uk
Apr 29-May 12	Festival du Soleil	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.festivalsdusoleil.com
May 5	Bonn Cup	Bad Godeburg, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 12-16	Grazer BridgeWeek	Graz, Austria	www.bridgeaustria.at
May 14-21	South Africa National Congress	Hazyview, Mpumalanga, RSA	www.sabf.co.za
May 21-29	German Bridge Festival	Wyk-auf-Föhr, Germany	www.bridge-verband.de
May 24-29	Grand Prix Of Portugal	Estoril, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
May 27-Jun 4	South American Transnational	Medellin, Colombia	www.confusudbridge.org
Jun 16-26	53 <sup>rd</sup> European Team Championships	Budapest, Hungary	www.eurobridge.org
Jun 25-Jul 7	Australian National Championships	Brisbane, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Jul 8-17	Danish Bridge Festival	Svendborg, Denmark	www2.bridge.dk
Jul 13-20	13 <sup>th</sup> European Youth Pairs & Camp	Liepaja, Latvia	www.eurobridge.org
Jul 21-31	ACBL Summer NABC	Washington, DC	www.acbl.org
Jul 26-31	Hong Kong Inter-City	Hong Kong, China	www.hkcba.org
Jul 29-Aug 7	22 <sup>nd</sup> Swedish Bridge Festival	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Jul 30-Aug 4	Chairman's Cup Teams	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 3-13	World Youth Team Championships	Salsomaggiore, Italy	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 6-7	Gold Mine Pairs	Örebro, Sweden	www.svenskbridge.se
Aug 7-9	Pesta Sukan	Singapore	www.scba.org.sg
Aug 19-28	EBU Summer Meeting	TBD (ex-Brighton)	www.ebu.co.uk
Aug 20-29	World Youth Open Championships	Opatija, Croatia	www.worldbridge.org
<b>Sep 3-17</b>	<b>World Bridge Games</b>	<b>Wroclaw, Poland</b>	<b>www.worldbridge.org</b>
Sep 9-18	Confiance Guernsey Congress	Guernsey, Channel Is.	www.ebu.co.uk
Sep 24-Oct 1	NZ National Congress	Wellington, NZ	www.nzcba.nz
Sep 30-Oct 4	International Azores Festival	Azores Is., Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Oct 5-11	EBU Overseas Congress	Cardone, Lake Garda, Italy	www.ebu.co.uk
Nov 7-13	Madeira International Festival	Madeira, Portugal	www.fpbridge.com
Nov 24-Dec 4	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org